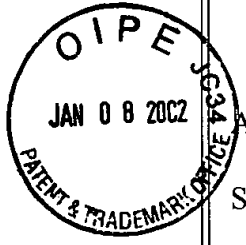


1745



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: OKADA et al
SERIAL NO.: 09/937,652
FILED: September 27, 2001
FOR: ALLOY FOR HYDROGEN STORAGE, METHOD.....
GROUP: 1745
DOCKET: SHIG C10804

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JAN 14 2002
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application, Applicant hereby attaches U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. These references were cited in the International Search Report of the corresponding PCT Patent application. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed. Publication No. 10-110225 cited in the International Search Report is discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

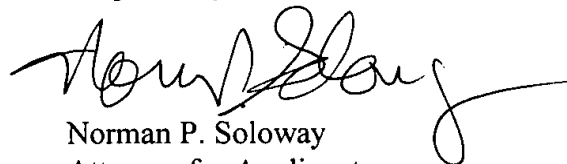
In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits

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a copy of a translation of portions of an Official Action by the PCT Examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a PCT patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the PCT Examiner or the claims of the PCT application under the laws of the PCT or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the PCT Examiner's comments submitted herewith.

The enclosed Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to receipt of the first Office Action. Therefore, we believe that there are no fees involved with this Prior Art Disclosure Statement. However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 27, 2001 at Tucson, Arizona.

By: Diana Carr

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